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**GOVERNOR O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR KAINE, AND MAYOR FENTY
MEET FOR REGIONAL SUMMIT**

Summit addresses key transportation and safety issues in the region

SILVER SPRING, MD (September 12, 2008) – Today, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and Washington, D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, convened the regional summit to address transportation and safety issues in the metro area, including cross border transience for violent offenders as well as issues of increased public transportation ridership and the issue of State of Good Repair for Metrorail. The summit, convened to discuss challenges and opportunities shared throughout the region, took place in Silver Spring, MD.

"Today, Mayor Fenty, Governor Kaine and I have come to a consensus on how to proceed as we work to address some of our region's most pressing challenges," said Governor O'Malley. "These agreements will help enhance the safety of our citizens, address some of the biggest transportation challenges we share, and increase the quality of life for all metro area residents."

Regional leaders agreed to several, coordinated crime-prevention efforts, including improved regional supervision of offenders through identification of the most violent area offenders, information sharing between probation officers and local police departments, and containing violent offenders by assigning them to handpicked agents with lighter caseloads.

This agreement effectively opens the borders between jurisdictions while providing essential information to track the activities of violent offenders in the area. This regional collaboration, information-sharing, and needs assessment is a first-in-the-nation for cross-border, regional cooperative efforts. The agreement also empowers public safety officials to not only share data, but to hold violent offenders accountable for their actions.

"When it comes to securing the safety of the entire metropolitan area, the District of Columbia is 100 percent committed," said DC Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. "Security details involving public safety and transportation are critical components of DC, MD and VA's collaborative effort. Today we've begun to tackle the issues, and ensure good data sharing across state lines to better protect residents and visitors alike"

The leaders also discussed the needs of the Metrorail system. Increasing ridership has strained the system while aging infrastructure requires increased maintenance investment. Federal funds are desperately needed to ensure that the system meets the needs of the region. The leaders expressed their commitment to a connection to Dulles Airport and future regional projects that connect growing suburban communities with the city and one another.

"It is vitally important that Virginia, Maryland and the District continue to work together on transit and public safety issues," Governor Kaine said. "We know from long experience with such important issues as Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts, that we all profit from collaboration."

Today, leaders of all three jurisdictions expressed their commitment to a new memorandum of understanding (MOU), agreeing to streamline the certification process for local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBE) that want to participate in federally funded transportation projects throughout the Washington region. Under this MOU, DBE firms already certified by one agency in the Washington region will be able to apply for certification in the other jurisdictions through a more efficient process with minimal paperwork. In order for a firm to bid on a federal transit, highway or airport project, that business must be certified in the specific jurisdiction where the project is based.

In order to receive funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation for projects, every agency or authority is required to follow the same regulations and use the same certification forms. Prior to the establishment of this regional certification consortium, a firm would have had to submit about two dozen documents three separate times with Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia to be eligible to bid on all transportation projects in the region. Under this MOU, firms already certified in one jurisdiction will have to submit approximately five documents to the other jurisdictions, including:

- the uniform certification application,
- a personal net worth statement,
- the individual's federal tax return for the latest tax year,
- the firm's federal tax return for the latest tax year, and
- a copy of the latest letter of certification received by the DBE/ACDBE from its home jurisdiction.

Currently, the number of DBE and ACDBE firms based in their home jurisdiction includes: 3,000 in Maryland, 600 in Virginia, and 200 in the District of Columbia. This regional certification consortium and the streamlined application process is intended to increase the number of certified DBEs and ACDBEs in the local marketplace and, subsequently, to increase the participation of small disadvantaged businesses in public contracting in the Washington region.

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